Scary Stories to Tell Your Children in the Dark

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PREFACE

Ghosts and demons are integral to folklore all over the world. India is no exception in that case. You may find the reference given to them in many literatures on religion and philosophy. When we look a little more in-depth at the subject, we will find some distinguished ghostly figures with some specific powers (or you can say traits) assigned to them.

In this book, you will find tales of ghosts inspired by real encounters experienced by certain people. Some specific ghost figures have also been described at the end of the book.

Chapter I. The Story Of Mohinder

Mohinder was a confectioner by profession. He lived in a small village and was quite a cheerful person. He was honest as well and dedicated to his work. When the marriage ceremony is arranged in the Hindu community in India, a number of sweets and confectioneries are prepared from both the bride's and bridegroom's side for the guests at their house. The condiments are bought and a confectioner is invited to their own house where he is required to cook the confectionery. Mohinder would cook at weddings every now and then. This kept him out all day and made him go back home late at night.

During the winter of 1978, Mohinder was running late while preparing sweets at a couple's house in some other village. The village was about 2 miles away from Mohinder's house. The way back home was completely desolate passing through farms. It was already 11'o clock at night when he left the ceremonial house. During the 1980s, the use of bicycles was common in the villages, but most of the people preferred to go on foot for moderately small distances. Mohinder was walking on foot carrying some confectioneries he made for his children.

In villages, it is believed that the ghosts are very attracted to tasty sweets, wine and meat. And Mohinder had lots of sweets with him. About half the way, he got surrounded by some men wearing white dresses with faces he couldn't make out. They started chasing him. They kept repeating, "Mohinder! Give us sweets," and they'd laugh out loud. Mohinder never looked back; he drew a cigarette and continued running. He had lit the cigarette because it was believed that the ghosts are repelled by fire (burning cigarette in that case). He was terribly afraid but never gave in to his fears. The men kept screaming and Mohinder kept running. When he came within half a mile of his home, the men disappeared and he felt a hard slap behind his head by an invisible power. The bag of sweets fell down and the sweets shattered away. Mohinder stood up and fled, trying to catch his breath. He got home safely and told his family about the incident. After this day, he never stayed late at work again.

Chapter II. The Screaming Voice From Crematorium

Ajay was quite excited about celebrating his 19th birthday with his friends from college. Consequently, he and his friends decided to celebrate in private, far from parents and relatives. That evening, they bought cooked chilly chicken and two bottles of beer. They got together in a playground in front of the village crematorium and started enjoying their beer and chicken as well as cold drinks in the playground. While they were stuffing their mouths with food, they heard a strange, loud scream from the crematorium in front of them. They could not decide if it was a human being or a wild beast from the forest nearby. They also could not see anyone around the place the voice came from. Yet, the voice grew louder and louder. Frightened, they all scampered out of the playground, got into their car, and drove away. Two years after the incident, they still cannot unravel who was screaming in the crematorium during the birthday night. However, the memory of this haunting event still makes all of them terrified and they believe that ghosts do exists, who probably appeared there for the chicken and beer. They believe that the ghosts were attracted by the meat or wine and they had both of these at the place where the dead bodies are cremated and spirits come alive.

Chapter III. The Dead Body Which Was Not Cremated

This story is linked to a distant village in Gurdaspur district in Punjab Province, India. There was an isolated house on the outskirts of the village. An old man lived here alone because his wife was dead and the rest of his family lived abroad. They had not visited him for four years. As the house was remote and away from the village, he was having only one visitor once a month.

Once, a childhood friend of the old man came to meet him in the house. The friend saw that the man was already in bed as early as 6:00 pm. There was also a very foul smell in his house. He attempted to wake him up, but the old man did not open his eyes. Then he sprayed a few drops of water over his head. The old man opened his eyes, but he remained in bed. They started talking about the good old days. The friend noticed that the old man was not sprinkling his eyes. All of a sudden, he felt thirsty and asked for some water to drink. The old man did not get up from his bed; instead, he elongated his arm like a rubber band so that he could pick up the glass from the shelf that stood close to them and then elongated his second arm to fill the water from the container. His friend was in awe when he saw this. He hurried out of the house to the neighbouring village and told the villagers about the incident. The following morning, they went into the haunted house with him. They could tell from the bad smell coming from the house that the old man had passed away about a month ago. Also, the ghosts do not act during daytime so he lay motionless in bed. They reached out to the corpse and practiced funeral customs in accordance with the religious procedure and the old man was finally laid to rest.

Chapter IV. The Dead Was Alive After Eight Years

Davinder lived in Chandigarh for 10 years. His village was approximately 200 km from his current residence in Chandigarh. He would come to the village occasionally during vacations. Once in December, when there was a fierce cold wave in North India, he arrived at his village very late. He had departed Chandigarh at approximately 8:00 p.m. and arrived near the village past midnight.

Just before the entrance to the main limit of the village, stood a mango tree. Davinder saw an old woman under the mango tree. The lady signaled him to stop his car. Davinder thought that she was staying there to prevent the cattle from entering her crop fields. So, he stopped next to the old woman and pulled down the side window of the car. Her face was wrinkled and whitish. She introduced herself saying she was the mother of Dilawar (a resident in the neighbouring village) and then asked Davinder to tell her son that his mother wanted him to send her tea at 4:00 in the morning. Davinder agreed to deliver the message.

After this, Davinder continued on his journey to his village. A few feet away from his village, he looked into the rear-view mirror of the car. He was astonished by what was going on back there. The old lady had flown into the air and kept getting closer and closer.

Davinder accelerated the car but she kept getting closer. Her face snapped into the back window of the car. Davinder pressed the throttle and entered the village and the woman vanished. Soaked in the sea of fear, he barely made it to his home. He was so terrified, he didn't even talk to anyone for a while. The next morning, he talked about it with other family members. His brother told him that Dilawar's mother from the nearby village, who he talked about, died eight years ago.

Chapter V. Rampal - The Barber

India is known for their festivals and ceremonies. People gather at festivals and everything else, whether it's a wedding, a birthday, or any celebration. Both rural and urban Indians believe in sharing all their joys and sorrows with their friends and loved ones.

Rampal, the barber of a small village in northern India had gone to attend a religious service in a relative's house. He was accompanied by his wife and five-year-old son. The relative's house was approximately 15 kilometers from Rampal's house. When the ceremony was over, they departed the place at approximately 9:00 p.m. to return home by motorbike.

Along the way, the motorcycle broke down in a forest. They all got off the bike and Rampal started checking for the problem. He tried to kick-start the engine again and again, but it was all in vain. Suddenly the motorcycle started! The head lamp displayed a picture which Rampal described as the most terrible scene of his life.

He recounted that he had seen a long human foot which was about 15 feet high and 70 feet long(he could see the foot which was covered under the scope of light). The creature was possibly very large. The movement of this huge mystic creature was towards the deep forest and away from the road. Rampal shut down the key and took a break. He said nothing about the incident to his wife and child who were behind him. After a couple of minutes, he started the bike and found out that the creature was gone. He asked his wife to take a seat and he drove home. When they were home, he discussed the incident that occurred in the woods with his wife and neighbours. Some neighbours suggested that the foot could belong to a creature name Jin– who was capable of taking any shape and size.

Chapter VI. The Vanishing Spirit

In the middle of the night in December, a man driving a car on a deserted highway spotted a lonely woman asking for help. The man stopped the car and asked what the problem was. She explained that she lived in a nearby village; her husband had left her there 2 hours ago when they were returning from the town on a motorcycle. He had promised he would return soon, but still hadn’t. She wanted to return to the house as soon as possible and ask about her husband. The driver agreed to give her a lift home. The woman sat on the passenger side and he began to drive. They spoke for a few minutes, then there was silence. About half an hour later, the man asked, "how far away is your village now?"

There was no response. He repeated the question, and then turned his head to the passenger. He was astonished to discover that the lady had disappeared. The vanishing spirit has been a popular subject for the tales of ghosts found across entire India. Many people claim that they have encountered a person vanishing from their car.

Chapter VII. Construction Work Over The Graveyard

Construction work on an educational institution was underway alongside the road outside the city. Rakesh was passing by the lonely construction site on his bike, in the evening. All of a sudden, something smashed him from behind his back. The impact was so strong that he fell off his bike. He got up, looked behind and found a lady dressed in white with her hair covering her face completely. "Who are you?" He asked. The lady ghost disappeared without saying anything.

Tired and injured, Rakesh went home and told his wife about it. He got a fever that night. Later, when he investigated the place, he found that the site was a graveyard some years ago. He concluded that the ghosts might have been disappointed as a result of the damage to the graveyard and in revenge, were making attempts to harm the passers-by.

Chapter VIII. A Man Prone To Paranormal Vision

Deshmukh was a true devotee of the goddess Kali; he worshipped her several times in a week. His story is about an incident that occurred when he got the vision to see through another world dimension with the grace of the goddess. He was able to see the spirits of dead individuals. He says he could see the spirits at a place that was entirely empty for people with normal vision. He says the spirits have been roaming around us while we are walking on a road or exercising in a playground, but we cannot see them if we don't have the true vision to see them. They exist in another dimension of the world.

When Deshmukh had the spiritual vision, he could find them wherever he went, whether on the road, at the bus stop, or on the way to his home. He found it really hard to distinguish between the ghosts and human beings while moving about. The only difference was that the spirits didn’t speak and they all wore white dresses. He says that he found his vision very disturbing for his personal life because he would never feel lonely at any time. He had ghosts around himself when his friends or family wouldn't go with him. Frustrated by this, he earnestly prayed to the goddess to reduce his mysterious vision of ghosts. After a few weeks, his eyes returned to normal like those of other human beings and he was able to live a normal life once again.

Chapter IX. Wrestling With The Ghost

Suram Singh was a famous wrestler in his village. He would also attend wrestling tournaments in distant villages. On one occasion, he had to take part in a wrestling tournament in his sister's village (where she was married into). He began is journey to his sister's village in the evening and arrived there at 8'o clock. When he was near his sister's house, he came across a person in a white dress. There was no one else around. The person asked him about his purpose of coming to the village. Suram explained that he was a wrestler and came for the wrestling tournament. The person got excited to hear this. He revealed that he was a wrestler too and would love to practice with him prior to the tournament. Suram was a fearless man and agreed to this. The wrestling match began immediately and for the next 4 hours, Suram continuously wrestled with the man—it seemed to have no end.

The man would not defeat Suram and when Suram was about to defeat him, he would miraculously become more powerful and gain control over him. Suram tried a lot; with all his might, he managed to escape and headed to his sister's home. He told his relatives about the incident and then came to know that the man dressed in white was an evil spirit. It would annoy any stranger coming to the village. Suram got fever that night as a result of the wrestle.

Chapter X. Vishal’s Mom

Vishal was a friendly person. He would spend so much time with his friends which always made him late to go home. His mother would become concerned whenever he did not get back home on time. She would even go out to look for him sometimes. One day, Vishal returned late home in the evening. The sun had set and it was dark. About300 meters from his house, there was a small bush. He found that a lady was sat in the bush with her arms folded. Vishal thought his mom would be waiting there because he was late. He tried to approach the bushes; once his eyes met with the lady's eyes, they glowed like a lantern. This was moment he was conscious, after that he did not know how and when he got home, after running breathlessly. He was so terrified by the incident that he never stayed out late again.

Chapter XI. Thief Or Something Else

It was the season of monsoon in India. It had been raining for 3 days and everywhere was wet. Anil's house was unfenced and was in the middle of the fields. The land around the home would be very muddy in the rain. The yard was old style and was prepared by anointing cow dunk on the plain. That same night, Anil and his sister slept in their room.

Around 12'o clock at night, they heard like someone enter their room. It looked like the person sat on the floor next to Anil's pillow. The person continuously made strange sounds from their throat, like the person had an infection. The frightened Anil tried to rouse his sister by nudging her with his leg. But, she was already awake from the sounds and could not find the courage to say anything. Both of them tried to compel each other to call the parents but none could move. After an hour the room became quiet and the person said in a heavy voice, "Don't call anyone, I am going out." The voice did not match that of anyone in their family.

After that, the person was gone. In the morning, the children discussed the incident with their parents. They looked around the wet courtyard and couldn't find any footprints on the land which would be engraved even if a small stone fell on it. In addition, nothing was missing from the house showing that there was no theft. This was one of the most mysterious incidents in Anil's life that still causes his hairs to rise.

Chapter XII. The Anklet

Santosh's home was a long way from the village. She would have to go to the village to fetch drinking water in a pot back to her home. One night, as she was coming back from the village with a pot full of water over her head, she heard a strange noise behind her. She turned around but couldn't find any. She started moving again, but the noise could be heard again later. She made a U-turn again, but didn't find anyone. So, she kept on moving to the house and ignored the sound. It went on till she got close to the house. When she was about to enter her house, some invisible power smashed her from behind with such power that the pot dropped from her hands and she fell to the other side on the ground.

When she gained consciousness, she found none around.

Fortunately, she made it home and told the story to her husband. After this incident she was always accompanied by her husband when she went to the village in the evening.

Chapter XIII. The Procession

It was at sunset that Munshi, a resident of the village of Bedlaam, went to buy a cow in the neighbouring village. It took him too long to get the deal done, so he started returning home around 10:00 p.m with the cattle. There was a hilly forest in the middle of the way back home. When he reached the forest in the midnight, he could see that a procession was moving across the way. He stopped to let them pass but he did not know that he would have to wait for the whole night. While he waited, he held on firmly to the rope bound to the neck of his cow. The procession continued to move and move endlessly. Around 4 am, a few persons at the end of the procession stopped near Munshi and gave him some rice mixed with lentils to eat. He didn't eat but brought it with himself to his house when he got home. When he opened the packing, he was astonished to see that there was blood and bones in it. The neighbours suggested that it was not a normal procession but a ghostly one.

Chapter XIV. The Puzzled Passenger

It was late at night when Dilawar was closing his store. He found a motorcycle driver outside his shop. The passenger had been smoking non-stop for a long time and appeared to be afraid. Dilawar approached him and asked what his concerns were. The passenger said he came from a nearby village when he encountered a woman at a turning point. The lady had asked him to drop her at this village. He accepted and let her sit behind him. A few minutes after the motorcycle was in motion, the woman mysteriously disappeared. He said he has been thinking for a long time about where she went. Dilawar encouraged the man and told him that many persons had reported the same incident on this road. It was perhaps an evil spirit.

Chapter XV. The Haunting House

Seema, her brothers and sisters had recently moved to their current home in Rosewood Forest. Theirs was the only home there. When their mother was outside the house and the kids were at home, they recounted hearing a sudden noise of falling utensils in the kitchen. The children ran into the kitchen to find out what had happened. Upon getting to there, they realized there is no disturbance to the kitchen and all the utensils were untouched. They then informed their mom who invited a priest into the house. The priest suggested that the place was a mortuary in the old times. He carried out a religious sermon and gave them a little holy water to spray into the house. Everything became normal after some time.

Chapter XVI. A Man Wrestling with Himself

It was sunset when Chirag, an inhabitant of the village of Falle, was returning from the fields. Suddenly, he lay down and began to play on the ground in an odd way. People passing by were confused by his actions. He seemed to be wrestling with himself as there was no one else with him. After a couple of minutes, he stopped the struggle and stood. People around him asked about what he was doing. He answered that three men dressed in black were preventing him from going home. He had been struggling with them for half an hour. It was a strange thing for the people as they couldn't see anyone except Chirag there. They came to the conclusion that the men could be wicked spirits.

Chapter XVII. A Lady Looking for Her Child

In the midnight of a day in December, Priya heard a strange voice in the back yard of her house. The back was a street leading into some of the houses in the community. Priya awakened and approached the window at the rear of the house. She looked toward the street but found no one. The voice came again and this time it was clearly audible. She heard the words of a woman who was weeping. The woman was saying,”oh! My child!! Please give me my child.” Priya still couldn’t find anyone at the place. She concluded that it was a ghost. After that it looked like the invisible mourning lady tried to move forward but some strange invisible power roared like thunder and prevented her from crossing the boundary of houses ahead. Priya got frightened and crawled back to her bed. She could not sleep all through the night. In the morning, she spoke with her mom about the incident. They asked the other neighbours and learned that others experienced the same thing. In fact, the grieving woman was the wife of someone from the house at the other end of the community. She underwent surgery giving birth to her first child and sadly died during the operation. However, the child was safe and alive. The crying voice might have been her spirit which was looking for the child. The invisible power that prevented it could have been the deity of the same locality, whose temple stood directly in front of Priya's house.

Chapter XVIII. The Kango

Kango lived in the village of Bhera. She used to feed her cattle in the forest. There was a bog at the place where the cattle grazed. One day, one of her herd got stuck in the bog. She loved her animals and could not have them die before her eyes. So she ran away to find help, but never found anyone.

Eventually, when she tried to pull the cattle herself, her foot slipped into the slithering mud around the marsh. In an attempt to save the animal's life, she put her own life at risk. She was slowly sinking into the mud. She cried a lot for help, but no one came to her aid. After some time, the children in the neighbouring (who were also in forest) village heard her voice. They came to her rescue and gave her a rope to tie round her. While she was tying up the rope, she was completely in the mud. Soon, she stopped breathing but the children managed to pull her out of the bog. Sadly, they were unable to save her. Some months after her death, some local residents reported seeing her feeding the livestock there and singing songs of sadness. It is believed that her spirit is unhappy because of the sudden death and wanders in the forest until it completes the duration assigned by the Almighty.

Chapter XIX. The Saleda

Bipan was ploughing the fields in the midnight, one day in September. The days were generally short during that month and people had difficulty achieving much during the days. They would generally complete the field works in the night. When Bipan was tilling the field using his tractor, a man dressed in white stood at the edge of the field. Bipan was a brave person. He had not bothered about ghosts or spirits in his life. It was the first time that such an incident would happen to him. Bipan thought it was his big brother who took care of his job. After a while, the man stretched out on the ground. Bipan was surprised when he saw that. He turned his tractor's path and continued tilling the ground. When he came to complete another round, the man lay down again in the field. This time he was looking taller than before. Bipan turned the path again and continued to till. The man became taller and taller each time. Finally, Bipan got serious and turned his tractor off the field. This time, the man sat on the tillage machine. Bipan started the tractor and attempted to pull the tillage machine. The machine got so heavy that the tractor was incapable of pulling it. So, Bipan left the tilling machine on the field and moved the tractor home. The tractor's 3-point linkages continued to strike the ground along the way and the tractor moved in an unusual manner until it reached the house. He jumped off the tractor and made his way home in haste. On getting home, he had a temperature all through the night. The next morning, he discussed the incident with his brother who told him that it was a Saleda(an evil spirit that tries to frighten the victims by annoying them through different ways by changing their figure).

We have studied some real-life ghost encounters. Now, let's learn about different types of ghostly creatures popular across Indian folklore.

Some distinct ghostly figures…….

Jin: The Jin is a powerful supernatural identity. It is believed they take whatever form they wish. They can grow as large as a mountain and then, in no time, they can also shrink to the size of a human being. Actually, they are not of this world; they are supposed to be of the other world. We cannot call them ghosts because they are not the souls of dead human beings.

In terms of power and magic ability, they are considered superior to ghosts and witchcraft and people believe that a person with a very strong spiritual power can take control over them.

The Ghost Procession: The ghost procession is a ghost-like figure mainly discussed in rural parts of India. Spectators who have witnessed them tell that the Ghost procession is some kind of mob moving in a straightforward row with orchestra and drums playing. The row does not move away from its linear path so any person standing away from the trajectory of their path will not be affected. However, if the spectator lies within the path projection and is touched by the procession, the consequences are sure to be very grave for him/her; it could lead to death after becoming deaf and dumb for some time. It is also said that the procession of ghosts celebrates this ceremony like we do by baking rice and lentils. This ghostly figure is regarded as highly potent.

Human Spirits: The ghost of a dead human being has been very popular in the world of paranormal psychology. Generally, it is believed that the spirit of a person leaves the world after their death. However, in cases of sudden death from an unexpected reason like accidents, suicide or snake bite, this may lead to discontentment in the human spirit and such spirits may remain in our world to complete the time span initially assigned to them by the almighty. They may interact with friends and family. This supernatural identity has been most popular amongst all ghostly characters.

Demon: Raakshas or demon is a ghost figure from the time immemorial. They are mentioned in the ancient Indian epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata. They are so powerful that even the Gods and Goddesses have to fight with them to save the world. The Rakshas always had an evil intention to rule the world by increasing their power. They would gain this power by devotion of the trinity Gods and after the attainment of this majestic power of sorts, they wage a war against the Gods, the saviours of humanity. The fight would be fierce but the final conclusion would be that the good always wins over the bad.

Betaal: Betaal is also an important ghost-like creature in Indian folk. The story of king Vikramadtya having an encounter with Betaal from a banyan tree in a cremation place at midnight is very popular in the country. The Betaal climbs up on the king's shoulders and tells him a tale. At the end of the story, Betaal would ask a question connected with the story. To compel the king to answer his question, Betaal would keep a bet that if he did not answer his question, even he knew the answer, then his head would be split in two parts. The panicked king would then give the answer and leave the Betaal back on the tree, to continue his journey on foot. The Betaal would again fly back to his shoulder and narrate another story. At the end, it will again ask a question about the story and this would go on.

The ghost is supposed to cause the victims to panic in different ways and not hurt them physically.

About the Author

Sourav is a young and aspiring author. He has authored over 100 articles on various subjects that are successfully published and featured on multiple renowned websites. He has also published 8 books through independent publishing platforms. He likes to read books, surf the internet, and listen to music. He wishes that there should be peace and love all around the world. He loves his fans more than anything.

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